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Non-gazetted officers

* 2747 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the Non-gazetted officers and whether a deputation on their behalf waited on the Chief Minister on 10th March 1955 to request the Government to raise their scales of pay and dearness allowance to those of Non-gazetted officers of the Union Government;

(*b*) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to appoint a Committee to go into their service conditions;

(*c*) whether there are any proposals under the consideration of Government like assignment of house sites to Non-gazetted officers grant of interest free-loans for construction of houses and removal of restrictions in regard to medical concessions;

(*d*) whether the resolutions passed at the 33rd session of the Conference of the Madras State Non-gazetted officers at Cuddalore in the month of May 1955 have been received by the Government;

(*e*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon; and

(*f*) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to create a separate constituency for Non-gazetted officers in the Legislature?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) They are being examined by the Government in the department concerned.

(*f*) No.

Mr. SPEAKER : Question time is over.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS *RE*

(1) FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION *re* ELECTION IRREGULARITY IN PANAPPUZHA PANCHAYAT AT PRESIDENT'S ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have received the following adjournment motion from Sri K. P. Gopalan :—

" This House stands adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent 10-20 a.m.
public importance, viz., the action on the part of the Returning Officer, one Sri T. K. Vasudevan Nair, in declaring a defeated candidate in the recent panchayat president's election, which election

was by show of hands, in Panappuzha amsam of Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, as the duly elected president and the failure of the Government to enquire into the matter and take action against the said officer which is causing commotion among the public in this area."

The election is over. I would like to know from the hon. Member how he calls it an urgent matter.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the election of the panchayat president took place on 17th October 1955 in Panappuzha Amsam of Chirakkal taluk. The election was conducted by show of hands. The result was that the Congress candidate, one of the biggest landlords in that place secured votes as against the United Front candidate who secured. . . votes. The Returning Officer announced this result. After the announcement of the result, the people dispersed. But on the evening of the same day the Returning Officer issued a notification to the effect that the candidate, who was declared defeated, had won and that he was the duly elected president of the panchayat board. The entire population in the Payyanur Constituency was surprised at this notification. The election was conducted openly, thousands of people witnesses it and heard the announcement of the result in the morning. They were surprised at the notification issued in the evening countermanding the result announced in the morning. Whoever wins in the election is a different matter. But if officials take a partisan attitude in the elections, it will be a menace to the growth of democracy in the country. My opinion is that officials must be above party politics and party prejudices. I myself and some other people represented to the Government to conduct an enquiry into the matter and take drastic action against the Returning Officer. But the Government were indifferent; they did not make any departmental or other enquiry. That is why I brought this matter to the notice of the House. This is a very serious matter. People should respect Government institutions. If an officer acts in the manner that the Returning Officer in question has acted, it will affect the prestige of the Government and undermine the people's faith in the Government, and it is against the democratic principles which we follow. That is why I think it is a matter of urgent public importance.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, this adjournment motion is misconceived, and I do not think it can be brought before this House. An election officer discharges certain statutory functions. If he misbehaves or there are any irregularities in the election, there are other remedies open to the candidates. The matter can be raised in a Court of law. As has already been pointed out by you, Mr. Speaker, I do not think under any circumstances this matter can be considered as urgent, because the election is over. If there is any irregularity, it can be considered only by a Court of law, even the Government cannot interfere. However, since a Government official is involved, we have asked the Inspector

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of Local Boards to make an enquiry and submit a report. Considering this and the fact that his object in sponsoring this motion has been achieved, I hope the hon. Member will not press his motion.

Sri K. P. Gopalan : As the Hon. Minister said that he had already asked the Inspector of Local Boards to make an enquiry and submit a report, I do not propose to move the motion.

(2) COERCIVE ACTION AGAINST PEASANTS FOR ALLEGED USE OF CANAL WATERS IN THE LOWER BHAVANI AREA.

Mr. Speaker : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. K. T. Raju which reads as follows :—

"This House stands adourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the serious situation in the Lower Bhavani Project area of Erode taluk due to the large-scale coercive proceedings by the Revenue authorities against peasants and confiscation of their properties for alleged utilization of canal waters out of ayacut area without even giving them an opportunity to appeal against these unjust levies to the higher authorities and secure justice."

I feel that the motion is vague and that it relates to a matter coming under the normal day-to-day administration of the Government. I shall be glad if the hon. Member will say how it is admissible.

* Sri K. T. Raju : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த விஷயத்தை இந்த சபையின் கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டுவந்த காரணம், இது ஒரு பிரத்தியேகமான சூழ்நிலை. குறிப்பாக ஈரோடு தாலூக்காவுக்கு லோயர் பவானி அணைக்கட்டிலிருந்து சென்ற வருஷம் தண்ணீர் விட்டார்கள், அந்த சமயத்தில் இதுதான் ஆயகட்டு நிலம், இது ஆயகட்டு நிலமல்ல என்ற விவரத்தை சொல்லாமல் தண்ணீர் விட்டார்கள். தண்ணீர் விட்டு மூன்று மாதத்திற்கு பின்புதான் water permit கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆயகட்டுக்கு சேர்ந்திராத சில நிலங்களுக்கு அங்கிருக்கும் ஜனங்கள் அந்த தண்ணீரை உபயோகப்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி உபயோகப் படுத்தினவர்களுக்கு இன்றைக்கு தண்டத் தீர்வை ஏராளமாக போட்டிருக் கிறார்கள். அந்த தண்டத் தீர்வையை எதிர்த்து சம்பந்தப்பட்ட அதிகாரி களுக்கு அப்பீல் செய்ய அவகாசம் கொடுக்சப்படவில்லை. இந்த விஷயத்தில் சர்க்கார் முடிவு செய்யும் வரையில் stay order போடவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டதற்கும், சம்பந்தப்பட்ட ரெவினியூ அதிகாரிகள் கவனிக்கவில்லை. கசிந்து வரும் தண்ணீரையும், வீணாக சிதறிப் போகும் தண்ணீரையும்தான் அங்கிருக்கும் விவசாயிகள் உபயோகப்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த இடமெல்லாம் புதிய இடம், விவசாயிகளுக்கு காலாகாலத்தில், இந்த நிலங்கள்தான் ஆயக்கட்டில் சேர்ந்ததென்று, தெரிவிக்காததால், விவசாயிகள் விஷயம் தெரியாமல் சிதறி வரும் தண்ணீரை தங்களுடைய நிலங்களுக்கு உபயோகப்படுத்தி இருக்கிறார்கள். இப்படி தண்ணீரை உபயோகப்படுத்தியதற்காக 5 ரூபாய் 10 ரூபாய் மட்டுமல்ல, 1,500, 3,000 ரூபாய் வரையில், தண்டத் தீர்வை போட்டு, அதைக் கட்ட அவகாசம்கூட கொடுக்காமல் பல ஆடு மாடுகளை அதற்காக ஜப்தி செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினாலே, கனம் மந்திரியார் அவர்களை என்ன கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன் என்றால், இந்த விஷயம், அதாவது லோயர் பவானி project அந்த பாகத்தில் சென்ற மூன்று நான்கு வருஷங்களாகத்தான் பரிசிலனையில் 10-25 a.m.